Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) An evaluation apparatus comprising:

a propagation information storage unit configured to store propagation information data including information messages to be propagated within a plurality of groups to be evaluated; and

an evaluation unit configured to evaluate an influence that one group, which is selected from among the plurality of groups, has on other group by analyzing the propagation information data stored in the propagation information storage unit.

2.   (Original) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the propagation information data includes content data representing content of the information to be propagated,

wherein the propagation information storage unit stores content data representing content of the propagation information data, and

wherein the evaluation unit, based on the content data for the information that has been stored for a group to be evaluated, extracts an attribute for the group to be evaluated, extracts an attribute for content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups, and employs the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data to evaluate the influence that the group to be evaluated has had on the other groups.

3.   (Original) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

a usage analysis unit configured to analyze, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data in information that

has been propagated or received by the other groups, the extent to which the other groups have used the group to be evaluated.

4.   (Original) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

a change analysis unit for analyzing a change in an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups.

5.   (Original) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein an email is propagated as the information,

wherein the propagation information data include sender group data representing a group that has propagated the email, recipient group data representing a group that has received the email, and content data representing the content of the email, and

wherein the evaluation unit extracts an attribute for the group to be evaluated by analyzing content data for an email propagated by the group to be evaluated, extracts attributes for the content data in emails that are propagated or received by the other groups, analyzes a relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attributes extracted for the content data in the emails, and employs the analysis results obtained for the relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails to evaluate an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups.

6.   (Original) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the evaluation unit employs a concept, included as content data in an email propagated by the group to be evaluated, to extract an attribute for the group to be evaluated, and employs a concept, included in content data of an email propagated or received by the other groups, to extract attributes for the emails.

7.   (Original) The evaluation apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the groups are organizations each having one or more components.

8.   (Currently Amended) An evaluation method comprising:

storing propagation information data including information messages to be propagated within a plurality of groups to be evaluated; and

evaluating an influence that one group, which is selected from among the plurality of groups, has on other group by analyzing the propagation information data stored.

9.   (Original) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the propagation information data includes content data representing content of the information to be propagated,

wherein the method further comprising:

storing content data representing the content of the propagation information data;

extracting an attribute for the group to be evaluated based on the content data for the information that has been stored for the group to be evaluated;

extracting an attribute for content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups; and

evaluating the influence that the group to be evaluated has had on the other groups based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data.

10.   (Original) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

analyzing, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups, the extent to which the other groups have used the group to be evaluated.

11.   (Original) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

analyzing a change in an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups.

12.   (Original) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein an email is propagated as the information,

wherein the propagation information data include sender group data representing a group that has propagated the email, recipient group data representing a group that has received the email, and content data representing the content of the email, and

wherein the method further comprising:

analyzing the content data for an email propagated by the group to be evaluated;

extracting an attribute for the group to be evaluated;

extracting an attribute for the content data in emails that are propagated or received by the other groups;

analyzing a relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attributes extracted for the content data in the emails; and

evaluating an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups by the analyzed results obtained for the relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails.

13.   (Original) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein a concept, included as content data in an email propagated by the group to be evaluated, is used to extract the attribute for the group to be evaluated, and

wherein a concept, included in content data of an email propagated or received by the other groups, is used to extract attributes for the emails.

14.   (Original) The evaluation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the groups are organizations each having one or more components.

15.   (Currently Amended) A program for computer to evaluate activities of a plurality of groups to be evaluated, the program making the computer to perform a process comprising:

storing propagation information data including information messages to be propagated within a plurality of groups to be evaluated; and

evaluating an influence that one group, which is selected from among the plurality of groups, has on other group by analyzing the propagation information data stored.

16.   (Original) The program as claimed in claim 15, wherein the propagation information data includes content data representing content of the information to be propagated,

wherein the program further making the computer to perform the process comprising:

storing content data representing the content of the propagation information data;

extracting an attribute for the group to be evaluated based on the content data for the information that has been stored for the group to be evaluated;

extracting an attribute for content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups; and

evaluating the influence that the group to be evaluated has had on the other groups based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data.

17.   (Original) The program as claimed in claim 16, further making the computer to perform the process comprising:

analyzing, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attribute extracted for the content data in information that has been propagated or received by the other groups, the extent to which the other groups have used the group to be evaluated.

18. (Original) The program as claimed in claim 16, further making the computer to perform the process comprising:

analyzing a change in an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups.

19. (Original) The program as claimed in claim 15, wherein an email is propagated as the information,

wherein the propagation information data include sender group data representing a group that has propagated the email, recipient group data representing a group that has received the email, and content data representing the content of the email, and

wherein the program further making the computer to perform the process comprising:

analyzing the content data for an email propagated by the group to be evaluated;

extracting an attribute for the group to be evaluated;

extracting an attribute for the content data in emails that are propagated or received by the other groups;

analyzing a relationship between the group to be evaluated and the email, based on the attribute extracted for the group to be evaluated and the attributes extracted for the content data in the emails; and

evaluating an influence that the group to be evaluated has on the other groups by the analyzed results obtained for the relationship between the group to be evaluated and each of the emails.

20. (Original) The program as claimed in claim 19, wherein a concept, included as content data in an email propagated by the group to be evaluated, is used to extract the attribute for the group to be evaluated, and

wherein a concept, included in content data of an email propagated or received by the other groups, is used to extract attributes for the emails.

21. (Original) The program as claimed in claim 15, wherein the groups are organizations each having one or more components.